



General

Guideline Title

A.S.P.E.N. clinical guidelines: nutrition screening, assessment, and intervention in adults.

Bibliographic Source(s)

Mueller C, Compher C, Druyan ME, American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.) Board of Directors. A.S.P.E.N. clinical guidelines: nutrition screening, assessment, and intervention in adults. JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr. 2011 Jan;35(1):16-24. [51 references] [PubMed](#)

Guideline Status

This is the current release of the guideline.

Recommendations

Major Recommendations

Definitions for the grades of recommendations (A-E) and levels of evidence (I-V) are provided at the end of the "Major Recommendations" field.

1. Screening for nutrition risk is suggested for hospitalized patients. (E)
2. Nutrition assessment is suggested for all patients who are identified to be at nutrition risk by nutrition screening. (E)
3. Nutrition support intervention is recommended for patients identified by screening and assessment as at risk for malnutrition or malnourished. (C)

Definitions:

Levels of Evidence

I	Large randomized trials with clear-cut results; low risk of false-positive (α) and/or false-negative (β) error
II	Small, randomized trials with uncertain results; moderate to high risk of false-positive (α) and/or false-negative (β) error
III	Nonrandomized cohort with contemporaneous controls
IV	Nonrandomized cohort with historical controls
V	Case series, uncontrolled studies, and expert opinion

Grading of Recommendations

Recommendation	Grade
A	Supported by at least 2 level I investigations
B	Supported by 1 level I investigation
C	Supported by at least 1 level II investigation
D	Supported by at least 1 level III investigation
E	Supported by level IV or V evidence

Clinical Algorithm(s)

A Nutrition Care algorithm is provided in the original guideline document.

Scope

Disease/Condition(s)

- Malnutrition
- Conditions or disease states requiring nutrition support

Guideline Category

Management

Risk Assessment

Screening

Clinical Specialty

Family Practice

Gastroenterology

Geriatrics

Internal Medicine

Nursing

Nutrition

Pharmacology

Intended Users

Advanced Practice Nurses

Allied Health Personnel

Dietitians

Health Care Providers

Health Plans

Hospitals

Nurses

Pharmacists

Physician Assistants

Physicians

Guideline Objective(s)

To compare clinical outcomes associated with published nutrition screening and assessment tools and the impact of further clinical assessment and nutrition intervention on clinical outcomes

Target Population

Patients with or at risk of malnutrition

Interventions and Practices Considered

1. Screening for nutrition risk
2. Nutritional assessment
3. Nutrition support intervention

Major Outcomes Considered

- Morbidity
- Mortality
- Hospital length of stay
- Postsurgical complications
- Infectious and noninfectious complications
- Weight

Methodology

Methods Used to Collect/Select the Evidence

Searches of Electronic Databases

Description of Methods Used to Collect/Select the Evidence

The best available literature was obtained and carefully reviewed. Chapter author(s) completed a thorough literature review of publications from 2005 to 2009 using Medline, the Cochrane Central Registry of Controlled Trials, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, and other appropriate reference sources.

Number of Source Documents

Not stated

Methods Used to Assess the Quality and Strength of the Evidence

Weighting According to a Rating Scheme (Scheme Given)

Rating Scheme for the Strength of the Evidence

Levels of Evidence

I	Large randomized trials with clear-cut results; low risk of false-positive (α) and/or false-negative (β) error
II	Small, randomized trials with uncertain results; moderate to high risk of false-positive (α) and/or false-negative (β) error
III	Nonrandomized cohort with contemporaneous controls
IV	Nonrandomized cohort with historical controls
V	Case series, uncontrolled studies, and expert opinion

Methods Used to Analyze the Evidence

Systematic Review with Evidence Tables

Description of the Methods Used to Analyze the Evidence

The system used to categorize the level of evidence for each study or article used in the rationale of the guideline statement and to grade the guideline recommendation is outlined in Table 3 of the original guideline document (see "Rating Scheme for the Strength of Evidence" field).

Methods Used to Formulate the Recommendations

Expert Consensus

Description of Methods Used to Formulate the Recommendations

These Clinical Guidelines were developed under the guidance of the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.) Board of Directors.

These Clinical Guidelines were created in accordance with Institute of Medicine recommendations as "systematically developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate healthcare for specific clinical circumstances."

These Clinical Guidelines are formatted to promote the ability of the end user of the document to understand the strength of the literature used to grade each recommendation. Each guideline recommendation is presented as a clinically applicable statement of care and should help the reader make the best patient care decision.

The results of the literature search and review formed the basis of an evidence-based approach to the Clinical Guidelines. Chapter editors worked with the authors to ensure compliance with the authors' directives regarding content and format.

Rating Scheme for the Strength of the Recommendations

Grading of Recommendations

Recommendation	Grade
A	Supported by at least 2 level I investigations
B	Supported by 1 level I investigation
C	Supported by at least 1 level II investigation
D	Supported by at least 1 level III investigation
E	Supported by level IV or V evidence

Cost Analysis

A cost analysis was not performed and published cost analyses were not reviewed.

Method of Guideline Validation

External Peer Review

Internal Peer Review

Description of Method of Guideline Validation

The initial draft was reviewed internally to promote consistency with the other American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.) Clinical Guidelines and Standards and externally reviewed (by experts in the field either within the authors' organization or outside of our organization) for appropriateness of content. The final draft was reviewed and approved by the A.S.P.E.N. Board of Directors.

Evidence Supporting the Recommendations

Type of Evidence Supporting the Recommendations

The type of supporting evidence identified and graded for each recommendation (see the "Major Recommendations" field).

Benefits/Harms of Implementing the Guideline Recommendations

Potential Benefits

- Improved screening, detection, and monitoring of patients at risk of malnutrition
- Improvement in nutrition status

Potential Harms

Not stated

Qualifying Statements

Qualifying Statements

These American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.) Clinical Guidelines are based upon general conclusions of health professionals who, in developing such guidelines, have balanced potential benefits to be derived from a particular mode of medical therapy against certain risks inherent with such therapy. However, the professional judgment of the attending health professional is the primary component of quality medical care. Because guidelines cannot account for every variation in circumstances, the practitioner must always exercise professional judgment in their application. These Clinical Guidelines are intended to supplement, but not replace, professional training and judgment.

Implementation of the Guideline

Description of Implementation Strategy

An implementation strategy was not provided.

Implementation Tools

Clinical Algorithm

For information about availability, see the *Availability of Companion Documents* and *Patient Resources* fields below.

Institute of Medicine (IOM) National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM Care Need

Getting Better

IOM Domain

Effectiveness

Patient-centeredness

Identifying Information and Availability

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Adaptation

Not applicable: The guideline was not adapted from another source.

Date Released

2011 Jan

Guideline Developer(s)

American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition - Professional Association

Source(s) of Funding

American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.)

Guideline Committee

Not stated

Composition of Group That Authored the Guideline

Authors: Charles Mueller, PhD, RD, CNSD; Charlene Compher, PhD, RD, FADA, CNSD, LDN; Mary Ellen Druyan, PhD, MPH, RD, CNS, FACN; American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.) Board of Directors

Financial Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

Financial disclosure: none declared

Guideline Status

This is the current release of the guideline.

Guideline Availability

Electronic copies: Available from the [Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Web site](#) .

Availability of Companion Documents

None available

Patient Resources

None available

NGC Status

This NGC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on December 26, 2012. The information was verified by the guideline developer on January 21, 2013.

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